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Urban District of Failsworth.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1948.

DONALD LONGBOTTOM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Including the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent

HUGH C. SLATER, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF FAILSWORTH

Health Committee, 1948-49 :

Councillor B. BRERETON, Chairman.
Councillor E. BATTERSBY.
Councillor J. EVANS.
Councillor W. HOWARD.
Councillor G. HOWARTH.
Councillor F. JONES.
Councillor S. JONES.
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Councillor F. YARWOOD.

Medical Officer of Health :

DONALD LONGBOTTOM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :

HUGH C. SLATER, Cert., R.S.A. (Scot.).
Cert. of Meat and Other Foods, R.S.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

HUGH P. LAWRENCE, Cert. R.S.I. (Commenced 2/2/48).

Clerks in Public Health Department :

J. T. WOOD (Resigned 12/6/48).
T. COYLE.
W. SCHOFIELD (Commenced 12/9/48).

URBAN DISTRICT OF FAILSWORTH.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1948.

To the Chairman and Members of the Failsworth Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting for your consideration my Annual Report for 1948 as per Article 17 (5) of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, Section 14 (3) of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926 and the Ministry of Health Circular 3/49.

I wish to record my appreciation of the interest and support shown by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, acknowledge the co-operation of my fellow officials, and thank my staff for their help throughout the year.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

DONALD LONGBOTTOM,

Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

Failsworth is a compact Urban District of 1072 acres, of which 9 acres are covered with water.

There is a gradual rise from 286 feet above sea level at the Manchester extremity to 354 feet above sea level at the Oldham extremity.

The district is divided into two Wards—the Lower near Manchester, and Higher nearer Oldham. This division is effected by the Rochdale Canal, which passes through the district.

The sub-soil is chiefly clay, with sand and gravel in places over-lying the coal measures.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS, ETC.

The district is entirely industrial, the staple industry being cotton spinning and manufacturing.

During the four years prior to 1948, the amount of Poor Law Relief granted in the Township was: 1944, £4,810 1s. 10d.; 1945, £5,932 6s. 0d.; 1946, £6,499 9s. 3d.; 1947, £7,607 6s. 5d.

No gratuitous medical relief, beyond the Poor Relief, is instituted in the district.

A public mortuary is erected in the yard at the rear of the Council Offices.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres	1072
Population (Census 1931)	15724
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate for mid-year 1948)	18010
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1931)	3883
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1947) according to Rate Books	5700
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (Census 1931)	4077
Rateable Value	£90,239
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate (Estimated)	£347

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	Males.	Females.	
Live Births—				
Legitimate ...	290	173	117	Birth Rate per 1000..... 16.8
Illegitimate ..	14	12	2	
Total...	304	185	119	
Still Births ...	15	8	7	——Rate per 1000 Total Births... 47
Deaths.....	216	117	99	——Crude Death Rate per 1000...11.9

Deaths from puerperal causes—	Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births
Puerperal sepsis	—	Nil
Other puerperal causes	—	Nil
Total	—	Nil

Death-rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live Births :—

All Infants, 52 ; Legitimate, 44 ; Illegitimate, 214

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
,, Whooping Cough (all ages).....	—
,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age).....	3
,, Cancer (all ages).....	32

Population, 18,040.

	Per 1000 of Estimated Population				Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under 1 Year per 1000 Live Births
Mean of 5 Years	Live Birth-rate	Crude Death-rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death-rate from Cancer	Per 1000 Live Births	Per 1000 Total (Live and Still) Births	
1943-1947.. ...	19.1	12.8	0.52	1.95	1.27	1.24	35
1947.....	20.3	12.9	0.74	2.28	Nil	Nil	33
1948.....	16.8	11.9	0.60	1.77	Nil	Nil	52
Increase or decrease On 5 years' average,							
1943-1947 ...	−2.3	−0.9	+0.08	−0.18	−1.27	−1.24	+17
Previous year	−3.5	−1.0	−0.14	−0.51	Nil	Nil	+19

1948 adjusted Death-rate (comparability factor) not available.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The National Health Service Act, 1946, became operative on 5th July, 1948. The major health services are administered by Health Divisions set up under the Act. The address of the Divisional Health Office for this Area is " Tylon," Middleton Road, Chadderton (Phone : MAIn 6251/2).

Professional Nursing in the Home.

No provision is made for nursing in the home by the Local Authority, but in cases of general sickness, two nurses of the Failsworth and New Moston Sick Nursing Association are available, and visits are made upon the written request of a medical practitioner.

The County Authorities maintain one nurse for duties in connection with their tuberculosis scheme.

Midwives.

No midwife is employed or subsidised by the Local Authority. There are two midwives on the Register, and both are actually practising.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are available at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester. Tuberculosis specimens are also examined at the Laboratory of the County Council Tuberculosis Dispensary, Ashton-under-Lyne.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Minor Ailment Clinics for school children, Dental and Ophthalmic Clinics for school children and children under 5 years and Child Welfare and Ante-natal Clinics for this district, are under the control of the Lancashire County Council and are held at Firs Hall, Oldham Road.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	1938	1946	1947	1948
Diphtheria	43	2	5	3
Scarlet Fever	78	40	59	29
Pneumonia	16	29	27	19
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	2	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	1	—	2
Erysipelas	10	3	5	3
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	—	2	2
Tuberculosis	33	25	25	20
Measles	—	134	356	240
Whooping Cough	—	38	152	54
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	1	2
Dysentery	—	—	4	4
	186	274	637	378

There was a great decrease in the total number of cases of infectious diseases notified during 1948 as compared with the previous year, this being due mainly to the reduction in the incidence of Measles and Whooping Cough—291 cases as against 508 in 1947. The majority of these cases occurred in children between the ages of two and five years, but none was fatal.

The number of Whooping Cough cases notified decreased considerably. The records show that the disease occurred mostly in children between the ages of two and five years of age and practically all during the months of January and February.

Of the three cases of diphtheria, one had been immunised.

There was a decrease in Scarlet Fever incidence, 29 in 1948, as against 59 in 1947. It was of a mild type, which enabled 20 cases to be satisfactorily nursed at home.

Acute primary and acute influenzal pneumonia showed a decrease compared with the previous year. There were six deaths from all forms of pneumonia during 1948.

There was a slight decrease in the incidence of erysipelas, there being three cases in 1948 as against five in 1947.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations.

Number of specimens examined in 1948 :—

(1) By Public Health Laboratory, Manchester :—
Diphtheria 19; Sputum for T.B., 2, Typhoid, 9;

(2) By Dr. G. Fletcher, Consultant Tuberculosis Officer for the Area :—
Sputum 146—positive 20, negative 126.

Action taken in regard to *(a)* Contacts, *(b)* Return Cases, *(c)* Carrier Cases.

(a) All contacts kept from school for one week; notice is sent to the head teacher, and necessary instructions given as to exclusion, etc. *(b)* nil. *(c)* nil.

Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Number of vaccinations performed by the Medical Officer of Health :
(a) Primary, Nil. *(b)* Re-vaccination, Nil.

Methods of Dealing with Infectious Diseases.

On receipt of a notification the house is visited by the Sanitary Inspector, and particulars as to character of house, number of occupants, schools attended by children, milk supply, etc., are obtained, and any possible source of infection is thoroughly investigated. If school children are concerned, the headmaster of the school attended is at once notified, and children from the house are not allowed to attend school. The laundries in the locality are notified of all cases of infectious disease. Isolation of the patient is insisted upon, and if this cannot be satisfactorily carried out at home, arrangements are made whereby the patient is removed to the Westhulme Isolation Hospital, Oldham; Monsall Hospital, Manchester; or the Borough Hospital, Ashton-under-Lyne.

Printed instructions as to methods of isolation, etc., are left at the house. Disinfectant fluid and soap are supplied free of charge. Houses where cases are being treated at home are kept under observation by the Sanitary Inspector.

As soon as the patient is certified as being no longer infectious, the infected room or rooms are fumigated with formaldehyde vapour. Bedding is removed for disinfection by steam in the Oldham Corporation Disinfector.

Any nuisances and defects at infected houses are noted and dealt with

In cases of enteric fever, special sanitary receptacles are provided, and the contents disposed of by the sanitary authority.

During the year, 46 premises have been disinfected, and articles of clothing, bedding, etc., have been disinfected in the steam disinfector belonging to the Oldham Corporation.

There has been no action taken to shorten the period of stay in hospital of uncomplicated cases of Scarlet Fever; but where efficient isolation and supervision can be obtained, the patient is, as indicated above, allowed to be nursed at home.

When school intimations of infectious disease are received, any pupil or person found to be suffering from infectious disease is immediately isolated and contacts examined.

The following schools in the district were disinfected :—Senior Boys' School, Senior Girls' School, Mather Street School, Holy Trinity School, St. Mary's School, Stansfield Road School, and St. John's School.

No facilities exist in the district for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1948.

Notifiable Diseases.	Number of Cases notified.													Total Deaths.	Hospital.	
	Total Cases at all Ages	At Ages—Years.													Total Cases remov'd to Hospit'l	Deaths in Hospit'l of persons belonging to district.
		U'der 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 35.	35 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and over.			
Scarlet fever	29	...	...	2	2	4	12	3	5	...	1	...	...	...	9	...
Diphtheria & Membranous croup	3	...	..	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...		3	...
Acute Primary and Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	19	6	1	3	3	1	2	...	...	1	.	1	1	6	1	...
Erysipelas	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	..	...	2	1	.	1	...
Dysentery	4	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	..	..	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal fever	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Whooping Cough	54	10	6	8	7	16	6	...	...	1	...	...	...	..	...	...
Measles	240	10	32	30	32	47	79	9	...	1	...	...	...	..	...	...
Ophthalmia Noenatorum	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Totals	358	29	40	43	44	70	100	14	7	4	1	4	2	6	18	...

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1948.

Age—Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Years								
0—1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
10—15	1	...	.	...	...	...	...	...
15—20	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
20—25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—35	5	2	..	...	2	1	...	...
35—45	3	1	...	...	2	2	...	...
45—55	...	1	...	1	3	1	...	...
55—65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals	12	5	1	2	8	5	...	...
	17		3		13		...	

The notification of tuberculosis in this district is quite efficient, and no action has been necessary in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

No action has been necessary relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade, nor for the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from the disease.

The duties of tuberculosis visitation are carried out by the staff of the County Council. Paper handkerchiefs and cardboard sputum cups are kept in the Health Department, and are given on demand.

Disinfection of the rooms and bedding is carried out in all cases of pulmonary tuberculosis when the patient dies, removes from the district, or enters sanatorium.

One hundred and forty six examinations of sputum were made by Dr. G. Fletcher, 20 of these being positive and 126 negative.

MATERNAL WELFARE.

Ante-natal and maternity patients are admitted to the following Institutions :—

1. St. Mary's Maternity Hospital, Manchester.
2. Municipal Hospital, Boundary Park, Oldham.
3. Crossley Hospital, Brook Street, Manchester.

Two fully-qualified midwives, resident in the area, attend patients who have their confinements at home.

A Home-help Scheme is administered by the Lancashire County Council. Under this scheme, domestic help is arranged for maternal patients having their confinements at home, during the two weeks following their confinement.

The provision of hospital accommodation for ante-natal and maternity patients has been adequate for the district.

TABLE I.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S TABLE.

Causes of Death, 1948.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
All Causes	117	99
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	7	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	1
Syphilitic Diseases	2	1
Influenza	1	...
Measles	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-Encephalitis	...	...
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	...	...
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Œsophagus (M)	..	...
Uterus (F)	...	3
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	2
Cancer of Breast	...	2
Cancer of all other Sites	7	15
Diabetes	1	1
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	12	7
Heart Disease	26	27
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	3
Bronchitis	13	8
Pneumonia	4	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	5
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	...
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	3	...
Appendicitis	...	...
Other Digestive Diseases	2	2
Nephritis	3	1
Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis	...	...
Other Maternal Causes	...	...
Premature Birth	2	...
Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease	5	2
Suicide	1	...
Road Traffic Accidents	2	...
Other Violent Causes	3	1
All other Causes	15	12

TABLE II.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Total all ages	Under 1 year	1 & under 2 years	2 & under 3 years	3 & under 4 years
		13	14	15	16
1 Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...
2 Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...
3 Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...
4 Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...
5 Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	11	...	...	...	...
7 Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	1	...	...	...
8 Syphilitic Diseases	3	1	...	...	...
9 Influenza	1	...	...	...	...
10 Measles	...	...	...	...	...
11 Acute Poliomyelitis and Acute Polio-Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...
12 Acute Infectious Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...
13 Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Œsophagus (M), Uterus (F)	3	..	...	...	...
14 Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	5	...	...	...	...
15 Cancer of Breast	2	...	..	...	...
16 Cancer of all other Sites	22	...	...	...	...
17 Diabetes	2	...	...	...	...
18 Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	19	...	...	...	...
19 Heart Disease	53	...	...	...	...
20 Other Diseases of Circulatory System	6	...	...	...	..
21 Bronchitis	21	...	...	...	..
22 Pneumonia	6	1	...	...	...
23 Other Respiratory Diseases	6	...	...	1	...
24 Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	...	...	...	...
25 Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	3	3	...	...	...
26 Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...
27 Other Digestive Diseases	4	...	...	...	...
28 Nephritis	4	...	...	...	...
29 Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...
30 Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	...
31 Premature Birth	2	2	...	...	...
32 Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease	7	7	...	...	...
33 Suicide	1	...	...	...	...
34 Road Traffic Accidents	2	...	...	...	...
35 Other Violent Causes	4	...	...	1	...
36 All other Causes	27	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	216	15	...	2	...

TABLE II.—continued

1948 *Compiled from Returns.*

4 & under 5 years	5 & under 10 years	10 & under 15 years	15 & under 20 years	20 & under 25 years	25 & under 30 years	30 & under 35 years	35 & under 40 years	40 & under 45 years	45 & under 50 years	50 & under 55 years	55 & under 60 years	60 & under 65 years	65 & under 70 years	70 & under 75 years	75 years and upwards
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...		...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	..	...	...	2	...	2	5	2	..	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	1	...	1	. .	1	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1
...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	..	...	...	...	1	..	...	1	3	2	3	3	4	5	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	..	5	...	3	3	7
...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	7	4	4	12	23
...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	2
...	...	...	...	1	1	...	3	...	2	...	3	4	2	1	4
...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	1
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	..	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	. .	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	1
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	. .	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	. .	...	...	...	...	. .	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	...
..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	3	5	8	7
.	1	...	...	2	5	2	9	11	12	10	25	21	22	31	48

TABLE III.

Infant Mortality during the Year 1948.

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age. Compiled from Local Returns.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 3 Months	3 Months and under 6 Months	6 Months and under 9 Months	9 Months and under 12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
All causes — Certified	6	2	...	...	8	3	3	2	1	17
All causes — Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Chicken-pox	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	. .	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Meningitis (*not Tuberculous*)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Icterus Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Asthenia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rupture Meningocele	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	3
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Malformations	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Premature Birth	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Other Causes	4	...	...	...	4	1	1	...	1	7
Totals	6	2	...	...	8	3	3	2	1	17

Nett Births in the year—legitimate, 290; illegitimate, 14.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—SECTION 47.

No applications were made under the above Act during the period 5th July to 31st December, 1948.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Failsworth Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1948.

Administrative difficulties were eased by the appointment of Mr. Hugh P. Lawrence as Additional Sanitary Inspector.

A considerable amount of co-operation was received from owners and occupiers, and notices were well complied with.

I take this opportunity of thanking the Members and Officials of the Council and the staff of the Public Health Department for their co-operation and assistance.

Your obedient servant,

HUGH C. SLATER,

Senior Sanitary Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply is good in quality and sufficient in quantity. The whole of the district, with the exception of 14 houses is supplied by Oldham Corporation. The exceptions are supplied by Manchester Corporation.

No raw water is supplied, and no sample of raw water has been obtained. There is no evidence of plumbo solvency, and no cases of lead poisoning have occurred.

All dwelling-houses in the district are supplied direct from public water mains.

Complaints of low pressure in houses have been received and referred to Oldham Corporation, the statutory undertakers.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The river Medlock adjoins the Sewage Works, and receives the sewage effluent. It flows along the south-east border of the district. The sewage effluent has satisfied the Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee. On the opposite boundary of the district is the Moston Brook, which flows into the river Irk.

A smaller brook, named Lord's Brook, flows into the Medlock, and another small stream occurs near the Cemetery.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Additional sewers to the extent of 1,089 lineal yards were laid during the year in connection with the Council's Bardsley Fold housing scheme.

All drains are examined before being covered in, and smoke or water tests applied where applicable.

The sewers in the district are partly brick and partly pipe. Most of the storm water finds its way into the sewers. They are periodically flushed and are ventilated by open manholes and gratings. House drains are well trapped and soil pipes are properly ventilated. The sewage is treated at the Council's Sewage Works.

Treatment of Sewage at Disposal Works.—The dry-weather flow of sewage exceeds 1,000,000 gallons per day. The sewage enters the works through a cast-iron pipe, 3 feet in diameter, and passes over a water-wheel, which breaks up the solids, and at the same time works a lime mixer. The crude sewage is treated with lime and ferrous sulphate and passes through detritus tanks, on through precipitation and settling tanks, and through 12 sprinkler filters, the effluent being subjected to humus tanks and strainer filters before being discharged into the river Medlock.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The following table shows the approximate number of the various sanitary conveniences in the district at the close of the year :—

CLOSETS.	Houses and Shops	Public B'd'gs & Rec. G'ds	Factories	TOTALS
Privy-midden closets	2	...	...	2
Pail-closets	57	...	17	74*
Fresh water-closets	5983	190	601	6774
Waste water-closets	130	...	...	130
	6172	190	618	6980

*Three of the pail closets are used in connection with moveable dwellings. The remainder are in situations where no sewers are available for drainage.

Four waste water closets were converted to fresh water closets during the year.

The waste water type of closet is most unsatisfactory and should be abolished at the earliest possible moment.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The following table shows the approximate number of the various refuse receptacles.

REFUSE RECEPTACLES.	Houses and Shops	Public B'd'gs & Rec. G'ds	Factories	TOTALS
Privy-middens (covered) ...	2	...	...	2
Dry ashpits (covered).....	...	...	...	...
Metal ashbins	5916	53	31	6000
	5918	53	31	6002

REFUSE COLLECTION.

Until December, this work was carried out by two motor refuse collectors : one 6½ cubic yard Vulcan of 20 horse power and one 7 cubic yard Karrier Bantam of 14 horse power. Delivery of a new 7 cubic yard Karrier Bantam was received in December. The personnel of the department is 16, comprising : a foreman, 3 drivers, 9 loaders, 2 tip attendants and 1 paper baler. The frequency of refuse collection has varied between 7 and 11 days. Approximately 150 new houses were occupied during the year, and the population, as shown in the Registrar-General's Estimates, has shown a steady rise during the past few years.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

All refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on low lying land near Broadway, and adjoining the Manchester boundary. This land when filled should prove a useful addition to the Council's Lower Park.

NIGHTSOIL.

The Karrier refuse collector is fitted with a tank for the collection of the contents of pail closets. Disposal is direct to the sewer through a specially designed chute situated near Lord Lane.

SALVAGE.

Salvage of waste materials was vigorously maintained throughout the year. The yield of salvage showed an increase of 14 tons, and the revenue an increase of £41 over 1947, despite a considerable falling off in the demand for bottles.

The weights and revenue of the materials salvaged are shown in the following table :—

	Tons	£
Paper	93¾	608
Textiles	10	106
Metals	½	1
Bottles	9	41
Bones	¼	1
	113½	757

150 tons of kitchen waste was collected by stock keepers from the Council's communal bins.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following tabular statement has been prepared in accordance with Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and contains information as to :—

(a) The number and nature of inspections made during the year ;

(b) The number of notices served during the year, distinguishing statutory from informal notices ;

(c) The result of the service of such notices.

(Please refer to next page)

Tabular Statement of Sanitary Inspections for the Year ended 31st December, 1948.

INSPECTIONS.		No of Notices Served.		Result of Service of Notices			
				Complied with		Not Complied with	
Nature of	Number of	Informal	Statutory.	By Owner or Occupier.	By Council in Default.	Outstanding	In hands of Surveyor.
Water Supply	109	...	...	...	...	...	...
Drainage	252	155	22	150	2	25	1
Stables and Piggeries	35	2	...	2	...	...	...
Offensive Trades	18	1	...	1	...	...	...
Ashbins	492	492	32	457	17	50	...
Tents, Vans and Sheds	105	9	...	9	...	...	...
Factories	144	13	...	12	...	1	...
Outworkers	56	...	...	...	...	...	...
Refuse Collection	166	...	...	...	...	...	...
Refuse Disposal	182	...	...	..	...	...	...
Smoke Observations	29	3	...	1	...	2	...
Rats and Mice	61	2	...	2	...	...	...
Schools	21	...	...	...	...	...	...
Shops	120	4	...	4	...	...	..
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	78	2	...	2	...	...	...
Interviews	156	...	...	...	...	...	..
Offensive Accumulations	17	5	...	5	..	...	...
Dwelling Houses	1404	353	41	374	14	6	...
Revisits to Property	1156	...	...	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding—Number of Houses Inspected	48	...	...	...	...	...	...
Verminous Premises—Number of Houses Inspected	47	...	...	...	...	...	...
Inspections *re* Cases of Infectious Disease	41	...	...	...	..	...	...
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	1	..	..	...	...	...	...
Visits to Premises where Food is prepared, sold or stored (including Vehicles)	551	5	...	5	...	...	...
Visits to Ice Cream Premises	42	...	...	...	...	...	...
Visits to Cowsheds	14	...	...	..	...	...	...
Dairies and Milkshops	116	3	...	2	...	1	...
Visits in connection with Sampling Milk—Bacteriological.	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Visits in connection with Sampling Food and Drugs	39	...	..	...	...	...	...
Petroleum	28	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals...	5534	1049	95	1026	33	85	1

DEFECTS REMEDIED DURING 1948.

	No.
Dwelling Houses—	
Verminous houses	14
Kitchen ranges, fireplaces and flues	22
Washboilers	4
Defective plaster	53
Defective ceiling plaster	16
Floors and stairs	21
Doors, windows and cords	93
Damp walls	32
Sinks	14
Waste pipes and channels	4
Roofs	90
Pointing and brickwork of walls	54
Yard paving and paths	113
Rainwater pipes and eaves gutters	199
Drains cleansed or repaired	31
Defective W.C. apparatus and buildings	52
Defective chimney stacks	12
Defective water supply and cisterns	4
Defective ashbins	474
Ventilation	—
Offensive accumulations	17
Miscellaneous	4
Factories—	
Unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation	6
Other nuisances	6
Farms and Dairies—	
Cowsheds limewashed	3
Food Premises—	
Cleansing and limewashing	3
Structural defects	1
Removal of refuse	—
Miscellaneous	1
Total...	1343

Complaints received and investigated 266

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, CAMPING SITES, ETC.

At the end of December, 1948, the number of van dwellings was nine, the number occupied being seven.

Periodical inspections were made during the year to ensure compliance with Byelaws made by this Council in 1928.

No licences in respect to Camping Sites have been issued by the Local Authority, under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Twenty-nine smoke observations were taken during the year. It was found necessary to visit several factories on account of smoke nuisance. Practical difficulties in connection with fuel and high production were experienced, but generally manufacturers were anxious to co-operate in smoke abatement.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

One house was treated with hydrogen cyanide by a private firm, and thirteen by the Council with insecticides containing D.D.T. Tenants are advised on precautions to be taken, and re-inspections are made to check re-infestation.

RODENT CONTROL.

One trained Rodent Operative is employed part-time on this work. Regular surveys are made and all complaints given prompt attention. All sewers in the district received two treatments in accordance with the methods approved by the responsible Ministry, and routine inspections and treatments were made at other Council properties.

SCHOOLS.

There are seven schools in the district :—

County Modern Secondary School for Boys (Partington Street).
County Modern Secondary School for Girls (Stansfield Road).
Mather Street County School (Junior, Mixed and Infants).
Stansfield Road County School (Junior, Mixed and Infants).
St. John's Church of England School (Junior, Mixed and Infants).
Holy Trinity Church of England School (Junior, Mixed and Infants).
St. Mary's Roman Catholic School (Junior, Mixed and Infants).

The schools are supplied with town's water, and are provided with closets on the water carriage system.

HOUSING.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR :

(a) Total, including numbers given separately under *(b)* ...	
(i) By the Local Authority	151
(ii) By other Local Authorities	Nil
(iii) By other bodies and persons	Nil
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(i) By the Local Authority	Nil
(ii) By other bodies or persons	Nil

1—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(i) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1404
(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose	2355
(ii) (*a*) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and (1932)	37
(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose	85
(iii) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
(iv) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	452

2—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	403

3—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs.....	20
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners	8
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	11

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 43

(ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(a) By Owners 34

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners..... 5

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..... Nil

(ii) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..... Nil*

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..... Nil

(ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit..... Nil

4—Housing Act, 1935. Overcrowding.

The exact position *re* overcrowding is not known, and to obtain it a new Survey would have to be carried out.

*Three dwelling houses demolished by agreement with owners.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

The number of dairy farms in the district is three. The number of dairymen and milk purveyors (excluding cowkeepers) is 58 including 47 milk shops.

Fourteen visits were paid to farms during the year, with regard to cleanliness of structures and milking methods. Milk shops were also periodically inspected.

A large pasteurising plant owned by the United Co-operative Dairies is situated in the district. The process of pasteurisation is by the Short Term High Temperature method. This has been inspected periodically, and recording charts and thermometers checked. Samples have also been taken periodically for bacterial count and phosphatase tests.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1936-1946.

No. of dealers' licenes (including supplementary licences) issued during 1948 in respect of :—	" Tuberculin Tested " milk :	
	(i) Bottling	1
	(ii) Distribution	Nil
	" Accredited " milk :	
	(i) Bottling	Nil
	(ii) Distribution	1*
No. of licences issued in respect of " Pasteurised " milk:—	Pasteurising plants	1
	Retail Distributors	3*

*Supplementary Licences.

SUMMARY OF MILK EXAMINATIONS DURING 1948.

Sample No.	Methylene Blue	Cultivation of Bacteria	Bacillus Coli (3 tubes)	Phosphatase Test	Designation of Milk
1	Satisfactory			Satisfactory	Short Term Pasteurised
2	,,			,,	
3	,,			,,	,,
4	,,			,,	,,
5	,,			,,	,,
6	,,			,,	,,
7	Unsatisfactory			Unsatisfactory	,,
8	Satisfactory			Satisfactory	,,
9	,,			,,	,,
10	,,			,,	,,
11	,,			,,	,,
12	,,			,,	,,
13	,,			,,	,,
14	,,			,,	,,
15	,,			,,	,,
16	,,			,,	,,
17	,,			,,	,,
18	,,			,,	,,
19	,,			,,	,,
20	,,			,,	,,
21	,,			,,	,,
22	,,			,,	,,
23	,,			,,	,,
24	,,			,,	,,
25	,,			,,	,,
26	...	56,000	2	,,	...
27	...	66,000	2	,,	...
28	...	10,000	1	,,	...
29	,,			,,	Short Term Pasteurised
30	,,			,,	
31	,,			,,	,,
32	,,			,,	,,
33	,,			,,	,,
34	,,			,,	,,
35	,,			,,	,,
36	,,			,,	T.T. Pasteurised
37	,,			,,	Short Term Pasteurised
38	,,			,,	
39	,,			,,	,,
40	,,			,,	,,
41	,,			,,	Sterilised
42	,,			,,	Short Term Pasteurised
43	,,			,,	
44	,,			,,	,,
45	,,			,,	,,
46	,,			,,	,,
47	,,			,,	,,
48	,,			,,	,,
49	,,			,,	,,
50	,,			,,	,,
51	,,			,,	,,
52	,,			,,	,,

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

The following premises are licensed or registered by the Local Authority :—

Premises used for the preparation of Preserved Food, including Fish Friers	33
Hawkers' Storage Premises	4
Premises for manufacture of Ice Cream	2
Premises of dealers in Ice Cream	18

Inspections have been made of the above registered premises at regular intervals. The standard of cleanliness is good.

Four hawkers were licensed, and their carts were inspected at intervals. The storage premises were also regularly inspected.

No slaughtering is carried on in Failsworth, as the central slaughter-house has remained closed during the year.

Butchers' shops have been inspected, and the Public Health Meat Regulations of 1924 and 1935 have been observed in every instance.

In all 551 visits were paid during the year to premises where food is prepared, stored, or sold. Five informal notices were served, and complied with during the year.

It has not been found necessary to institute legal proceedings in any case.

The following table gives the quantity of meat and other foods seized or surrendered during the year, upon being found unfit for human consumption :—

Description of Food.	Weight Condemned.		
	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Meat	4	1	6
Tinned Meat	1	1	3
Tinned Fish		1	17
Tinned Milk	1	2	12
Tinned Vegetables	3	0	2
Tinned Soups		1	22
Tinned Fruits and Jams	4	0	7
Cooking Fat	1	0	0
Butter and Cheese			16
Dried Eggs			12
Miscellaneous			15
Total	16	2	0

Bakehouse.—There are 24 in the district at the present time. A number of these are really part of a dwelling-house. All were frequently inspected and verbal intimations given regarding limewashing or structural defects were promptly complied with. One new bakehouse was erected to replace one which was in many ways unsatisfactory, and one was substantially improved by considerable structural alterations.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The Lancashire County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority, and the under-noted particulars of the sampling carried out under the provisions of the above Act in Failsworth during the year 1948, were supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.

A total of 77 samples were obtained, 46 being of milk and the 31 others comprising:—

3 cocoa.
2 tea.
1 dried mint.
1 dried parsley.
3 flour.
1 golden raising powder.
3 boracic ointment.
1 pancake mixture.
1 pancake and Yorkshire pudding mixture.
1 baking powder.
2 cream of tartar.
1 milk food (Lactogen).
1 milk food (Trufood).
2 boracic crystals.
1 white pepper.
2 fish (canned).
2 cooking fat.
1 dates.
1 lemon cheese.
1 Epsom salts.

In addition one " appeal to cow " sample of milk was purchased.

All the above samples were certified by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following:—

Sample.	*Result.*	*Action taken.*
1 informal milk ...	Deficient 11.6% fat and low in solids, not fat	Vendor notified.
1 informal milk ...	Freezing point indicated the presence of 0.5% of extraneous water	Vendor cautioned.
1 formal milk ...	Deficient 2.9% solids, not fat; freezing point indicated the presence of 0.8% of extraneous water	Vendor cautioned.
1 formal milk ...	Deficient 27% fat	Prosecution—dismissed on payment of costs.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The only offensive trade in the district is one tripe boiling premises which has been in existence for a considerable time. The work is carried on in such a manner to be free from nuisance.

RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 and 1928.

There are no premises in the District at which rag flock is manufactured, used, or sold.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM SPIRIT.

Licences were granted to 21 firms for the keeping of Petroleum, to which the Petroleum Acts apply, each licence being for the duration of twelve months.

All the petroleum is kept in separate stores, specially constructed of fire-proof material throughout, and the Regulations otherwise complied with.

Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1. **Inspections**, for the purposes of provisions as to health, (Including inspection made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections 2	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions 4
Factories with Mechanical Power	15	...	...
Factories without Mechanical Power	121	8	...
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises	8	...	...
Total	144	8	...

2. **Defects Found.**

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions
	Found 2	Remedied 3	Referr'd to H.M. Inspector 4	5
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	3	3	...	...
Overcrowding (S 2)	1	1	...	...
Unreasonable temperature (S 3)	...	...	...	...
Inadequate Ventilation (S. 4)	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)—				
insufficient	3	2	...	...
unsuitable or defective	6	6	...	...
not separate for sexes	..	...	...	...
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to Outwork	...	...	...	...
Total	13	12	...	...

Number of Returns in Outworkers' Section—Nil.

BYE LAWS AND ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT.

Bye-Laws.	Came into force.
Nuisances	13th March, 1900
Slaughter-houses	13th March, 1900
Hackney Carriages	26th March, 1900
New streets and Buildings	9th December, 1926
Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures ...	15th August, 1928
Smoke Bye-laws	14th March, 1929

Regulations with respect to :—

Drains and Sewers, etc., 3rd November, 1898.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops, 1st February, 1898.

Cemetery Regulations and Charges, 10th April, 1919.

Acts.

The undermentioned Adoptive Acts are in force in the district :—

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890—

Part III., adopted 1st April, 1896 ; came into force 1st June, 1896.

Part IV., adopted 13th June, 1912 ; came into force 1st August, 1912.

The Public Libraries Acts, 1892 and 1893. Adopted 13th October, 1903 ; came into force 1st December, 1903.

The Private Street Works Act, 1892. Adopted 12th February, 1907 ; came into force 1st April, 1907.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. Section 86, came into force 31st December, 1912.

Sections 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 28, 29, *30, 31, 32 and 33, comprised in Part II.

Section 95, comprised in Part X.

All the above came into force 21st March, 1913.

* Section 30 is subject to certain conditions and adaptations.

Sections 76 and 77 comprised in Part VI. Came into force 18th July, 1922.

The Public Health Act, 1925—

Part II., adopted 14th April, 1926 ; came into force 1st June, 1926, with exceptions, viz. :—Sections 21 and 22.

Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938.